

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 06489 131647Z
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 HA-05 IO-13 L-03 PA-01
ICAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /068 W
-----118447 131658Z /44 41

O R 131635Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2510
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 6489

BRUSSELS FOR USEC/LABATT

PARIS FOR LABATT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, PINT, TS
SUBJECT: ACHOUR TRIAL: MEETING WITH VANDERVEKEN
OF ICFTU

REF: BRUSSELS 17215 AND TUNIS 6390

1. CHARGE MET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF ICFTU
JOHN VANDERVEKEN ON SEPTEMBER 13. VANDERVEKEN'S UNDER-
STANDING OF STATE OF PLAY IN ACHOUR CASE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL
TO THAT OF EMBASSY. VANDERVEKEN SAID HE INTENDED TO APPEAR
AT OPENING OF TRIAL BEFORE TUNISIAN STATE SECURITY COURT AT
0900, SEPTEMBER 14, ACOMPANYING FRENCH LAWYER FRANCOIS SARDA,
WHO BELIEVES HE HAS ASSURANCE FROM PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA
THAT HE WILL BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND TRIAL. VANDERVEKEN
HAS NO SUCH ASSURANCE. HE NOTED THAT HIS ENTRY INTO
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 06489 131647Z

TUNISIA WAS DELAYED AT TUNIS AIRPORT FOR TWO HOURS LAST
NIGHT WITHOUT AN CLEAR EXPLANATION. HOWEVER, IN END
POLICE ADMITTED HIM, APOLOGIZED FOR DELAY, AND EVEN PROVIDED
HIM WITH TRANSPORTATION TO HIS HOTEL.

2. IF, AS EXPECTED, DEFENSE REQUEST FOR ADJOURNMENT TO
ALLOW TIME TO PREPARE CASE IS GRANTED, VANDERVEKEN WILL

RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO BRUSSELS TO REPORT ON SITUATION.
IT IS HIS UNDERSTANDING (AS IT IS OURS) THAT TEAM OF
DEFENSE LAWYERS WILL REFUSE TO PROCEED FURTHER WITH CASE
IF POSTPONEMENT GRANTED IS INSUFFICIENT, IN THEIR VIEW,
FOR THEM TO PROPERLY STUDY DOSSIER RUNNING TO THOUSANDS
OF PAGES. VANDERVEKEN SAID HE WAS TOLD BY DEFENSE LAWYERS
THIS MORNING THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET EVEN RECEIVED A COPY
OF DOSSIER.

3. VANDERVEKEN CONFIRMED THAT ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY
KERSTEN AND IRVING BROWN OF AFL-CIO WILL ASK TO TESTIFY
AT TRIAL. HOWEVER, VANDERVEKEN NOTED THAT SINCE NEITHER
MAN HAD APPEARED BEFORE EXAMINING MAGISTRATE(JUGE D'IN-
STRUCTION), TRIAL JUDGE WOULD BE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO

ALLOW THEM TO TESTIFY.
KING

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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